

Research papers by scientists

†2067. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one decade ago the number of research ' papers published by Indian scientists were more than the number of research papers published by Chinese scientists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this number has reduced to less than half of Chinese scientists;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in order to solve this problem, the Director General of CSIR has proposed to open more USER (Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research); and

(d) if so, Government's view on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A decade ago, in 1996, the number of papers published by scientists in India and China were 11177 and 10157 respectively. In 2005, however, India scientists published 19448 papers in comparison to 53513 papers by the Chinese scientists.

(c) and (d) the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has recommended the setting up of Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (USER) in the country. The Government has recently set up three IISERs at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh to give a boost to promotion of basic research in the country. These new institutions, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Bio-Technology

2068.SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Bio-technology at Thiruvananthapuram has developed a drug based on a "one time ayurvedic remedy" to fight the side effects of radiation in the case of cancer patients;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.